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Tiverton

Rural District Council.

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year ending

31st December, 1944.

TIVERTON :

PRINTED BY MASLANDS, 42A, FORE STREET.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE
AUTHORITY.

(a) *Part time M.O.H. :*

G. NICHOLSON, M.D., F.R.C.S., D.P.H.

(b) *Sanitary Inspector and Water Engineer :*

W. KEMP, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., F.F.Sc.

(c) *Sanitary Inspector :*

W. P. ROBERTS, M.S.I.A., A.R.S.I.

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TO THE
TIVERTON
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to lay before you my Annual Report on the health of the District for the year ending 31st December, 1944.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF
THE AREA.

AREA. 114,139 Acres.

POPULATION (1931) 20,560.

RATEABLE VALUE, £74,467.

SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE, £331.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS. Agriculture being the chief occupation of the inhabitants, conditions are on the whole good.

SLAUGHTERING INDUSTRIES.

Government Slaughterhouse, Tiverton Junction.

EXTRACT FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF
THE YEAR.

	Total.	M.	F.	
Live Births	313	179	163	Birth Rate per 1000 the population—16·1
Stillbirths...	36	20	16	) Rate per 1000 total (live and still-births) births—8·5
Deaths ...	266	138	128	Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population— 12·6

Deaths from diseases & accidents } from sepsis Nil.
of pregnancy & child-birth } „ other causes Nil.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	43·2
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births				41·5
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	55·5
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	Nil.
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	1
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	Nil.
„ „ Cancer...	...	...	...	32

STATISTICS FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

Births per 1,000 of population	...	...	Live	17·6
			Still	.50
Deaths ...	...	...	...	11·6
Deaths under one year of age	...	...	..	46

EXCESSIVE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR.

None.

SICKNESS AND INVALIDITY.

Nothing of note.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN
THE AREA.

1. NURSING in the Home. No change.
2. NUMBER OF MIDWIVES practising in the Area. The District Nurses of which there are 16 act in this capacity.
3. LABORATORY FACILITIES. Clinical material is examined at the County Laboratories as before.
4. LEGISLATION IN FORCE. There has been no change during the past year with regard to Legislation in Force throughout the Area.
5. HOSPITALS. None in Area. The Tiverton Joint Isolation Hospital receives Infectious Cases and has recently been extended to receive cases of Scabies and Impetigo. There is now, also an observation block consisting of cubicles where a variety of cases may be admitted.

GENERAL SURGICAL and Medical Cases are sent to the Tiverton and District Hospital or the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital. These have always proved adequate in accommodation.

MATERNITY CASES requiring hospital treatment usually are admitted to the Tiverton & District Hospital. Admissions have to be limited owing to danger of overcrowding.

ASHLEY COURT CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL,
TIVERTON.

This institution, intended primarily for evacuated children, has continued to perform a useful function in accommodating largely chronic cases of various kinds. The average number of cases throughout the year is 10.

INOCULATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

The number of children under 5 not inoculated against Diphtheria number 102, that is 90% of the total are inoculated.

The number of over 5's unprotected number 250 or 11%.

Co-operation with the Health Visitors and School Heads is satisfactory and we expect this number to be materially reduced in the future.

The value of inoculation is well illustrated in the remarkable reduction in the incidence of diphtheria since inoculation was introduced.

SCABIES.

Cases of this condition are treated in a special wing of the Joint Isolation Hospital. Scabies appear to have diminished considerably but cases still crop up from time to time.

SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLIES.

REGIONAL SUPPLY. This was tested on 6 occasions during this year and all samples were reported to be satisfactory.

SHOP ACT. No action taken.

SMOKE ABATEMENT. No action.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The Disposal of Sewage throughout the District is fairly satisfactory although there is need for improvement.

The sewerage and sewage disposal scheme has been prepared for the Parish of Hemyock, and has been approved, but the work will not be carried out until after the present crisis.

Schemes are urgently required for Culmstock, Halberton, Sampford Peverell, Ashill and Bampton.

Halberton is in need of a disposal scheme.

The question of disposal of effluents from the Abattoirs, Milk Factory, and crude sewage from the Council's Sewer at Tiverton Junction in Willand Parish will need attention.

SCAVENGING AND REFUSAL DISPOSAL.

The regional collecting scheme is now in force in 17 Parishes and is working satisfactorily.

SCHOOLS.

The general condition and sanitation of schools are satisfactory.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Houses cleansed and redecorated	...	...	10
Nuisances from Cesspools and Waste Deposits	...	...	17
Wells closed	...	...	2
Number of Cowsheds on the Register at the end of Year	...	...	718
Number of Inspections—Cowsheds	...	...	168
,, ,, Dairies	...	...	27
Milk Samples Taken	...	...	158
Bakehouse Inspections	...	...	10
Shops and Food Stores	..	..	83
Slaughterhouse Inspections	...	...	612
Inspection of Butchers and Other Shops	...	...	42
,, ,, Hide Stores	...	...	5
No. Carcasses Examined	...	...	24,338
Amount of Unsound Meat	...	77 tons 13 cwts.	
Inspection of Schools	...	...	17
Disinfections—Infectious Diseases	...	...	27
,, Verminous	...	...	10
Knacker Yard	...	...	7
Nuisances and Complaints	...	...	23
Rats and Mice	...	...	14

**1.—INSPECTION FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS
AND WORKPLACES.**

*Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or
Inspectors of Nuisances.*

PREMISES. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers prosecuted (4)
Factories (Including Factory Laundries)	3	Nil	Nil
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	1	1	Nil
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' premises)	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	4	1	Nil

DISINFECTION FOR BED BUGS. 3 required during the year.

**2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS
AND WORKPLACES.**

Insufficient W.C. accommodation 2 (which has since been provided).

HOUSING.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	... 12
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	27
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ...	... 3
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	10
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	Nil.
(4) Number of dwelling-houses exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head, and found to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	No Record.

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ... Nil.

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :—

A.—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... Nil.
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :
 - (a) By owners (work in hand) ... Nil.
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners Nil.

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	...	...	...	12
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:				
(a) By owners	...	...	...	7
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	Nil.

C.—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted	...	...	Nil.
(2) Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition order	Nil.

D.—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act of 1936

...
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4. *Overcrowding*:-

(a) 1. Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year...	...	No action taken with regard to overcrowding owing to the area being a reception area and a large number of Evacuees in the district.
2. Number of families dwelling therein	...	
3. Number of persons dwelling therein	...	
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	
(c) 1. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	
2. Number of persons concerned in such cases...	...	
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	...	

Certificates of Essentiility for Repairs to Houses by Private Owners during the year amounted to £10,392 9s. 10d.

It will be seen from this figure that a considerable amount of repair to property was made even with labour and material difficult to obtain.

SECTION E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.

MILK AND DAIRIES ORDER, 1926.

A great deal of steady progress has been made during the year, thanks chiefly to the effects of the accredited scheme.

SAMPLES OF MILK. ACCREDITED AND T.T. SAMPLES.

158 were taken for cleanliness with the result that 74 were reported as being satisfactory.

With regard to the 74 unsatisfactory samples, producers' methods were corrected with satisfactory results.

74 Samples of Grading Milk were taken for the National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme, were examined at Seale Hayne College with the undermentioned results:—

36	...	A.
12	...	B.
25	...	C.

All samples taken for tubercle were found to be negative.

(b) MEAT INSPECTION.

Meat Regulations and Slaughterhouses (R. D. C.) Order, 1924.

As a general rule premises are fairly satisfactory and any suggestions by the Sanitary Authorities are promptly carried out.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, and General Meat Inspection.

No action has been needed under the 1933 Act.

Meat inspection at Tiverton Junction has received special attention, and all carcases, and offal, have been inspected at the time, or just after slaughter.

(c) ADULTERATION.—No action taken under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act.

(d) CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.

—This only applies to milk in this area. Samples are regularly submitted to the County Laboratories in Exeter.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1944 giving age incidence.

Under 1 Year.	Scarlet Fever.	Diph- theria.	Whoop- ing Cough.	Measles.	Pneu- monia.	Ery- sipelas.	Typhoid.	Dysen- tery. (Sonné)	Cerebro Spinal Menin- gitis.
0—1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—2	1	—	—	—	6	—	—	1	—
2—3	4	—	—	3	16	—	—	—	—
3—4	2	—	—	3	17	—	—	—	—
4—5	2	—	—	6	11	—	—	—	—
5—10	22	—	24	89	2	—	—	—	—
10—15	6	—	8	14	—	—	—	—	—
15—20	2	1	—	3	1	2	—	—	—
20—25	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
25—30	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
30—35	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
35—45	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	—
45—55	—	—	—	—	2	5	—	—	1
55 - over	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	1
Total	41	1	50	157	10	10	1	1	2

There were also 3 cases of Puerperal Pyrexia, aged 30, 33, 34.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM. No cases notified.

TUBERCULOSIS. New Cases and Mortality during 1944.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non- Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non- Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
20	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
25	1	3	—	1	1	1	—	—
35	—	—	2	—	1	1	2	—
45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 up	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
Total	3	3	4	2	4	3	3	—

All the above deaths have been notified according to the Regulations.

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS)
REGULATIONS, 1925. No action was taken.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1925, SECTION 62. No action was taken.

I am indebted to the officers of the Council for their help during the year.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your most obedient Servant,

G. NICHOLSON.